TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2005 LB 739

harassment, they are not paid an adequate wage. So it's not like businesspeople come in here like the good fairy and just spreads largess for everybody who needs it. There are people working that keep these businesses going. And I'm not going to docilely be on this floor and allow their interests to be sacrificed for business. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler. This will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I'd like to get into a little bit specifically the Chambers amendment. I appreciate Senator Chambers' amendment, in the sense that I think it improves a section of the bill. However, I'm not sure it's the best solution or the right solution. But Senator Cunningham, I need to have a little dialogue with you to figure this out, though. If we could go to page 26 of your amendment, to that section at the bottom which is affected by Senator Chambers' amendment--as you know, it changes "ten dollars" on line 23 to "twenty dollars."

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I understand the process...and I may need a little help here, so help me if we need to. You started out with an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be half of his or her average weekly wage. So first of all, we look at this from the individual's perspective, and what is half of his or her average weekly wage, right? That's the starting point on this calculation that involves Senator Chambers' amendment?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Then we go from what pertains to the individual...we say, the individual's weekly benefit amount shall not succeed (sic) the lesser of one-half of the state average weekly wage. So everybody whose average wage is above